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Application Serial No.: 10/677,918
Response to Office Action
Transmission Date: August 8, 2008

III. Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the above-identified application as follows. The following amendments are made for purposes of clarification and not for purposes of patentability. The following claims will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

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1. (Currently amended) A device for processing containers having a plurality of biological sample wells wherein at least one of the wells includes a biological sample, the device comprising:

at least two processing stations;

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a sample guide between the at least two processing stations; and

an actuator of the container from at least one processing station to at least another processing station.

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2. (Original) A device as in claim 1, wherein at least one of the processing stations comprises a processing plate dispenser.

3. (Original) A device as in claim 1, wherein at least one of the processing stations comprises a processing plate agitator.

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4. (Original) A device as in claim 1, wherein at least one of the processing stations comprises a processing fluid dispenser.

5. (Original) A device as in claim 4, wherein said processing fluid dispenser comprises a set of injectors.

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6. (Original) A device as in claim 5, wherein said injectors are recessed.

7. (Currently amended) A device as in claim 5, wherein said injectors are stationary.

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8. (Currently amended) A device as in claim 4, wherein said processing fluid dispenser comprises:

a reservoir comprising:

5 a biological substance process input port; and

a plurality of dispense ports; and

a set of dispensing protrusions connected to the dispense ports.

9. (Original) A device as in claim 1, wherein at least one of the processing
10 stations comprises a processing plate piercer.

10. (Original) A device as in claim 1, wherein at least one of the processing stations comprises a pressure aperture.

15 11. (Original) A device as in claim 1, wherein the at least one of the processing stations comprises a seal positioned and arranged for interaction with the container.

12. (Original) A device as in claim 1, wherein at least one of the processing stations comprises a collector plate dispenser.

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13. (Original) A device as in claim 1, wherein at least one of the processing stations comprises a collector plate sealer.

25 14. (Currently amended) A device as in claim 1, wherein said at least two processing stations comprise at least two multi-sample, biological sample container processing stations and further comprising:

guides between the at least two multi-sample, biological sample container processing stations; and

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stops at a plurality of the at least two multi-sample, biological sample container processing stations.

15. (Original) A device as in claim 14, wherein at least one processing stations
5 comprises a seal positioned and arranged for contact with a sample container.

16. (Original) A device as in claim 15, wherein the least one processing station comprising a seal further comprises a pressure aperture.

10 17. (Original) A device as in claim 14, further comprising a slideable actuator mounted between the at least two processing stations.

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18. (Currently amended) A system for treatment of a plurality of biological samples in a multi-sample container, the system comprising:

means for moving a first multi-sample container to a first processing station;

5 means for processing the first multi-sample container at the first processing station;

means for moving the first multi-sample container to a second processing station;

means for moving a second multi-sample container to the first processing station;

means for processing the first multi-sample container at the second processing station; and

10 means for processing the second multi-sample container at the first processing station.

19. (Currently amended) A system as in claim 18, wherein said means for moving the first multi-sample container is operated during at least a portion of the moving the
15 second multi-sample container.

20. (Currently amended) A system as in claim 18, wherein said means for processing the first multi-sample container at the second processing stations ~~operates~~ occurs during at least a portion of the processing of the second multi-sample container at
20 the first ~~second~~ processing station.

21. (Currently amended) A system as in claim 18, wherein said means for processing the first multi-sample container at the first processing station comprises means for contacting a processing fluid with the biological samples in the first multi-sample
25 container.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Cancelled)

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24. (Currently amended) A system as in claim 18, wherein said means for processing the first multi-sample container at the first processing station comprises means for agitating the first multi-sample container.

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25. (Currently amended) A system as in claim 18, wherein said means of processing the first multi-sample container at the first processing station comprises means for creating an aperture for at least one sample in the first multi-sample container.

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26. (Currently amended) A system as in claim 25, 6 wherein said means for creating an aperture comprises means for piercing the multi-sample.

27. (Currently amended) A system as in claim 26, 8 wherein said means for piercing comprises an elongate member.

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28. (Currently amended) A system as in claim 25, 6 wherein said means for processing comprises means for removing of a fluid through the aperture.

29. (Currently amended) A system as in claim 28, 17 wherein said means for removing comprises means for creating a pressure differential between an interior well of the multi-sample container and the aperture, wherein the pressure is greater in the well than at the aperture.

30. (Currently amended) A system as in claim 18, wherein said means for moving comprises means for pushing the multi-sample container.

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31. (Currently amended) A system as in claim 18, wherein said means for moving comprises a linearly-actuated member comprising a multi-sample container contact member.

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32. (Currently amended) A system as in claim 18, wherein said means for moving comprises a track having means for guiding the multi-sample container from the first processing station to the second processing station.

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33. (Currently amended) A system as in claim 32, ~~21~~ wherein said track further comprises stops for positioning the multi-sample container at the first processing station and at the second processing station.

10 34. (Currently amended) A system as in claim 18, further comprising:
means for receiving the first multi-sample container, at a first processing location;
means for guiding the first multi-sample container to a second processing
location;
means for holding the first multi-sample container at the second processing
15 location; and
means for receiving a second multi-sample container at the first processing
location.

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35. (Withdrawn) A method for treatment of a plurality of biological samples in multi-sample container, the method comprising:

- moving a first multi-sample container to a first processing station,
- processing the first multi-sample container at the first processing station,
- 5 moving the first multi-sample container to a second processing station
- moving a second multi-sample container to the first processing station
- processing the first multi-sample container at the second processing station
- processing the second multi-sample container at the first processing station.

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36. (Withdrawn) A system for harvesting polynucleotides from a growth plate in which bacteria that include the polynucleotides reside and in which growth media reside, the method comprising:

- means for inserting into the growth plate a lysis fluid
- 5 means for agitating the lysis fluid and bacteria in the growth plate
- means for creating an aperture in the growth plate
- means for inserting a wash fluid into the growth plate
- means for passing a gas through the growth plate
- means for inserting a solubilizing fluid into the growth plate, and
- 10 means for creating a pressure differential across the processing plate whereby DNA is removed from the growth plate.

37. (Withdrawn) A system as in claim 1 wherein the lysis fluid comprises a buffer.

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38. (Withdrawn) A system as in claim 1 wherein the lysis fluid comprises a substantially neutral pH.

39. (Withdrawn) A system as in claim 1 wherein the lysis fluid comprises a non-alkaline fluid.

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40. (Withdrawn) A system as in claim 1 wherein the lysis fluid comprises a salt.

41. (Withdrawn) A system as in claim 1 wherein the salt comprises an acetate-containing salt.

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42. (Withdrawn) A system as in claim 2D wherein the acetate-containing salt consists essentially of a TRIS acetate salt.

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43. (Withdrawn) A system as in claim 2D wherein the salt consists essentially of a chaotropic salt.

44. (Withdrawn) A system as in claim 1 wherein the lysis fluid comprises a
5 detergent.

45. (Withdrawn) A system as in claim 1 wherein the wash fluid comprises a buffer.

10 46. (Withdrawn) A system as in claim 1 wherein the wash fluid comprises an enzyme.

47. (Withdrawn) A system as in claim 3A wherein the enzyme comprises an RNA-specific enzyme.

15 48. (Withdrawn) A system as in claim 3A wherein the enzyme comprises a non-DNA specific enzyme.

20 49. (Withdrawn) A system as in claim 3A wherein the enzyme is chosen from a group consisting essentially of: DNASE, RDNASE, or PROTEASE.

50. (Withdrawn) A system as in claim 1 wherein the wash fluid solubilises lipids, chaotropic salts, and carbohydrates, faster than the wash fluid solubilises DNA.

25 51. (Withdrawn) A system as in claim 1 wherein the wash fluid comprises alcohol.

52. (Withdrawn) A system as in claim 3B wherein a majority of the wash fluid comprises alcohol.

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53. (Withdrawn) A system as in claim 3D wherein the wash fluid comprises between 30% and 98% by volume.

5 54. (Withdrawn) A system as in claim 1 further comprising:
means for removing the wash fluid from the growth plate and
means for reinserting the wash fluid into the growth plate.

55. (Withdrawn) A system as in claim 1 further comprising means for inserting of
10 the wash fluid into the growth plate before the removal of the lysis fluid.

56. (Withdrawn) A system as in claim 7 wherein said means for inserting the wash fluid operates before said means for removing the lysis fluid.

57. (Withdrawn) A system as in claim 1 further comprising means for inserting a
15 further wash fluid after removal of the wash fluid.

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58. (Withdrawn) A method for harvesting polynucleotides from a growth plate in which bacteria that include the polynucleotides reside and in which growth media reside, the method comprising:

- 5 inserting into the growth plate a lysis fluid
- agitating the lysis fluid and bacteria in the growth plate
- creating an aperture in the growth plate
- inserting a wash fluid into the growth plate
- passing a gas through the growth plate
- 10 inserting a solubilizing fluid into the growth plate, and
- creating a pressure differential across the processing plate whereby DNA is removed from the growth plate.

59. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 1 wherein the lysis fluid comprises a
- 15 buffer.

60. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 1 wherein the lysis fluid comprises a substantially neutral pH.

- 20 61. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 1 wherein the lysis fluid comprises a non-alkaline fluid.

62. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 1 wherein the lysis fluid comprises a salt.

- 25 63. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 1 wherein the salt comprises an acetate-containing salt.

64. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 2D wherein the acetate-containing salt consists essentially of a TRIS acetate salt.

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65. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 2D wherein the salt consists essentially of a chaotropic salt.

5 66. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 1 wherein the lysis fluid comprises a detergent.

67. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 1 wherein the wash fluid comprises a buffer.

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68. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 1 wherein the wash fluid comprises an enzyme.

15 69. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 3A wherein the enzyme comprises an RNA-specific enzyme.

70. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 3A wherein the enzyme comprises a non-DNA specific enzyme.

20 71. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 1 wherein the wash fluid poorly solubilises DNA.

72. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 1 wherein the wash fluid solubilises lipids, chaotropic salts, and carbohydrates, faster than the wash fluid solubilises DNA.

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73. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 1 wherein the wash fluid comprises alcohol.

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74. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 3B wherein a majority of the wash fluid comprises alcohol.

75. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 1 wherein the solubilizing fluid comprises
5 water.

76. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 1 wherein the gas comprises air.

77. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 1 further comprising:
10 removing the wash fluid from the growth plate and
reinserting the wash fluid into the growth plate.

78. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 6 wherein said removing and reinserting
occur before said passing gas.
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79. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 6A wherein said removing and reinserting
occur after said passing gas.

80. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 6 further comprising holding the wash
20 fluid in the growth plate.

81. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 6 further comprising holding the wash
fluid in the growth plate for a period long enough for an enzyme in the wash fluid to
degrade RNA from silica in the growth plate.
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82. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 1 further comprising preventing foaming
of the lysis fluid during removal of the lysis fluid.

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83. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 7 wherein said preventing comprises removing air from contact with the lysis fluid in the growth plate during removal of the lysis fluid.

5 84. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 7A wherein said removing air comprises insertion of the wash fluid into the growth plate before the removal of the lysis fluid.

85. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 1 wherein said inserting the wash fluid occurs before removing the lysis fluid.

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86. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 1 further comprising inserting a further wash fluid after removal of the wash fluid.

15 87. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 8 wherein said further wash fluid has an alcohol content greater than the alcohol content of the wash fluid.

88. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 1 wherein said passing a gas comprises pulling air through the growth plate.

20 89. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 1 wherein said passing a gas comprises pushing air through the growth plate.

90. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 1 wherein said inserting a solubilizing fluid in the growth plate comprises inserting water in the growth plate.

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91. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 1 wherein said creating a pressure differential comprises placing a collection plate near the aperture and drawing a gas from at least one edge of the collection plate.

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92. (Withdrawn) A biological sample preparation device comprising:
a plurality of reaction volumes wherein each reaction volume is in a fixed relation to
other reaction volumes, and
a recessed sample extraction location for each reaction volume.

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93. (Withdrawn) A device as in claim 101 wherein said recessed sample
extraction location comprises at least one projection beyond each of said recessed sample
extraction locations.

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94. (Withdrawn) A system as in claim 102 wherein said at least one projection
comprises a single projection around all of said recessed sample extraction locations.

95. (Withdrawn) A system as in claim 101 further comprising a skirt around each
of said recessed sample extraction locations.

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96. (Withdrawn) A system as in claim 111 wherein said skirt comprises a sealing
edge.

97. (Withdrawn) A system as in claim 101 further comprising an elongate
20 member around each of said recessed sample extraction locations.

98. (Withdrawn) A system as in claim 112 wherein at least one of said elongate
members comprises a cylindrical cross-section.

99. (Withdrawn) A system as in claim 112 wherein said elongate member
25 comprises a polygonal cross-section.

100. (Withdrawn) A system as in claim 101 wherein the reaction volumes
comprise an open end of said means for maintaining a reaction volume.

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101. (Withdrawn) A system as in claim 140 wherein said reaction volume for each sample comprises an elongate member.

5 102. (Withdrawn) A system as in claim 101 further comprising spacer members between said plurality of the reaction volumes.

103. (Withdrawn) A system as in claim 101 further comprising a substantially unitary structure defining said plurality of reaction volumes and defining said recessed
10 sample extraction location for each reaction volume.

104. (Withdrawn) A system as in claim 101 further comprising an openable, centrifugal sample extraction member located at each of said recessed sample extraction locations.
15

105. (Withdrawn) A system as in claim 60 wherein said openable, centrifugal member comprises a piercable material.

106. (Withdrawn) A system as in claim 61 wherein said piercable material
20 comprises re-sealing material.

107. (Withdrawn) A system as in claim 61 wherein said piercable material comprises non-re-sealing material.

25 108. (Withdrawn) A device as in claim 101 further comprising silica in at least one of plurality of reaction volumes.

109. (Withdrawn) A device as in claim 170 wherein said silica comprises diatomaceous earth.

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110. (Withdrawn) A device as in claim 170 wherein said silica comprises silicon dioxide.

5 111. (Withdrawn) A device as in claim 101 further comprising polynucleotide growth media in at least one of the plurality of reaction volumes.

112. (Withdrawn) A device as in claim 101 further comprising silica and polynucleotide growth media in at least one of plurality of reaction volumes.

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113. (Withdrawn) A system for producing a plurality of polynucleotides from at least one colony of host cells, the system comprising:

means for maintaining a reaction volume for each polynucleotide,

means for maintaining a distance between the reaction volumes,

5 means for receiving the plurality of polynucleotides in the reaction volumes, and

means for providing a sample extraction path from each reaction volume.

114. (Withdrawn) A system as in claim 1 further comprising means for providing at least one recess of at least one sample extraction path.

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115. (Withdrawn) A system as in claim 2 wherein said means for providing at least one recess of at least one sample extraction path comprises at least one projection beyond said means for providing at least on sample extraction path.

15 116. (Withdrawn) A system as in claim 3 wherein said at least one projection resides around all of the means for providing a sample extraction path.

117. (Withdrawn) A system as in claim 2 wherein said means for providing at least one recess of at least one sample extraction path comprises a skirt around all the
20 means for providing a sample extraction path from each reaction volume.

118. (Withdrawn) A system as in claim 2 wherein said means for providing at least one recess of at least one sample extraction path comprises an elongate member around each means for providing a sample extraction path from each reaction volume.

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119. (Withdrawn) A system as in claim 12 wherein at least one of said elongate members comprises a cylindrical cross-section.

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120. (Withdrawn) A system as in claim 12 wherein said elongate member comprises a polygonal cross-section.

121. (Withdrawn) A system as in claim 1 wherein said polynucleotide comprises
5 a plasmid.

122. (Withdrawn) A system as in claim 1 wherein said means for maintaining a reaction volume for each polynucleotide comprises an elongate member.

10 123. (Withdrawn) A system as in claim 30 wherein said elongate member includes a cross-sectional area having a curved shape.

124. (Withdrawn) A system as in claim 30 wherein said elongate member includes a cross-sectional area having a polygonal shape.

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125. (Withdrawn) A system as in claim 1 wherein said means for maintaining a distance between the reaction volumes comprises spacer members between a plurality of the reaction volumes.

20 126. (Withdrawn) A system as in claim 1 wherein said means for maintaining a reaction volume for each polynucleotide and said means for maintaining a distance between the reaction volumes comprise a substantially unitary structure defining spaced reaction volumes in the substantially unitary structure.

25 127. (Withdrawn) A system as in claim 1 wherein said means for maintaining a reaction volume for each polynucleotide comprises a plurality of reaction vessels and said means for maintaining a distance between the reaction volumes comprises a set of spacers.

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128. (Currently Amended) A device ~~device~~ comprising:
at least two multi-sample, biological sample container processing stations;
guides between the at least two multi-sample, biological sample container
processing stations; and
5 stops at a plurality of the at least two multi-sample, biological sample container
processing stations.

129. (Currently Amended) A device as in claim 128, wherein at least one
processing stations comprises a seal positioned and arranged for contact with a sample
10 container.

130. (Currently Amended) A device as in claim 129 2, wherein the least one
processing station comprising a seal further comprises a pressure aperture.

15 131. (Currently Amended) A device as in claim 128, further comprising a
slideable actuator mounted between the at least two processing stations.